



MINNESOTA



THRIVING IN THE NORTH

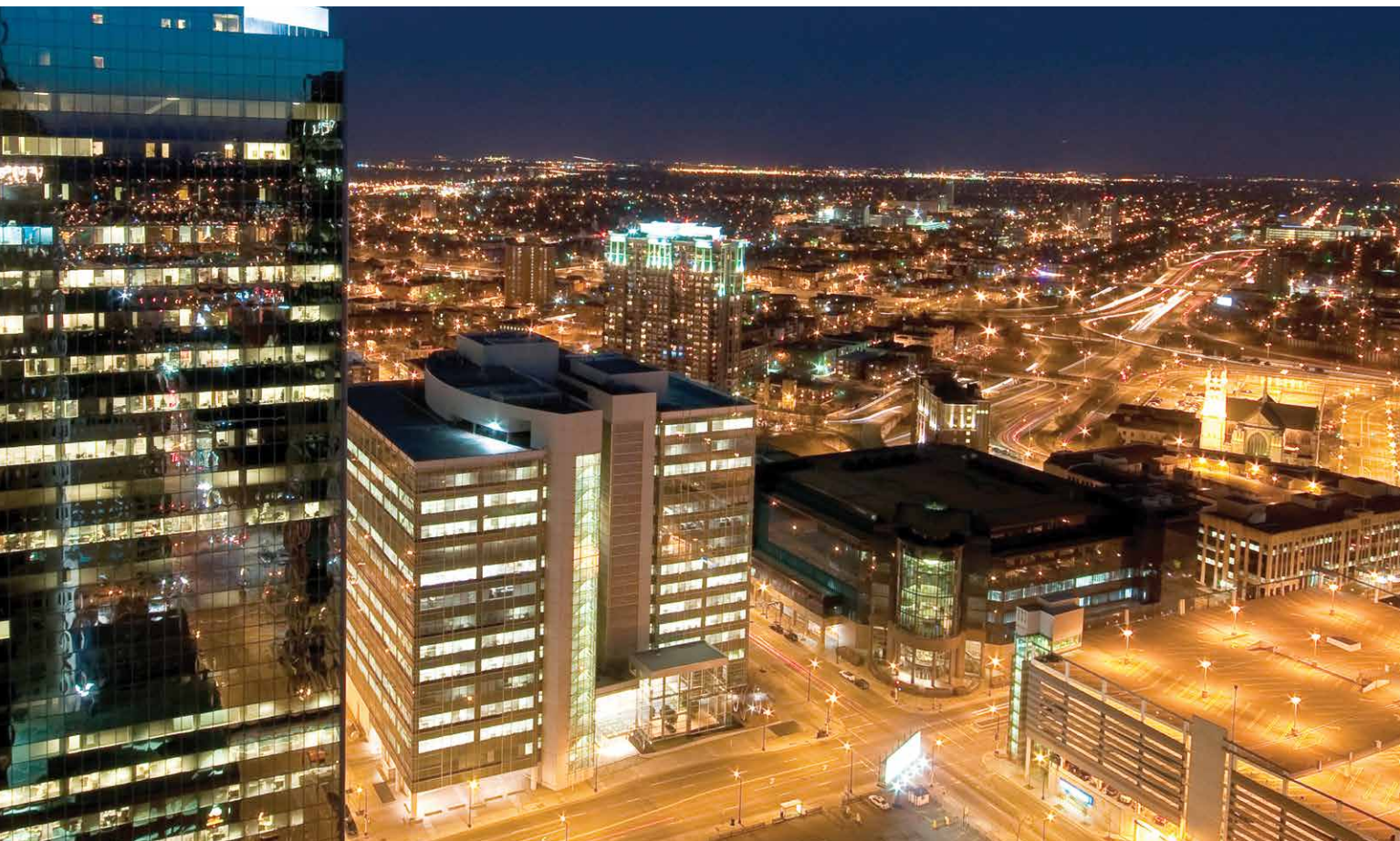
Root Yourself in Opportunity



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LIVING AND WORKING IN MINNESOTA:

WWW.MN.GOV/DEED

WWW.MINNESOTAWORKS.NET





ROOT YOURSELF IN OPPORTUNITY

Minnesota is an exceptional place to live and work — full of opportunities for growth in all aspects of life. Top-tier health care and education systems, a thriving business community, undeniable scenic beauty, a vibrant arts and entertainment scene and a variety of professional sports teams are just some of the reasons our state is so livable. All of these features, along with our reasonable cost of living, have made Minnesota the top prospect for people from around the world looking to root themselves in opportunity.

It's no wonder Minnesota always ends up on national top ten lists...

- #1 Best State**
(Politico, 2014)
- #2 Best Quality of Life**
(USA TODAY, 2014)
- #4 Happiest State**
(Gallup, 2014)
- #6 Healthiest State**
(United Health Foundation, 2014)
- #9 Best State for Business**
(Forbes, 2014)

THE LAND OF 10,000 LAKES BY THE NUMBERS

Population: 5,457,173

Unemployment Rate: 4.1%
(5th Lowest in the Country)

Home Ownership Rate: 71.4%

High School Graduates: 92.4%

Fortune 500 Companies: 17





CULTURE IN MINNESOTA

MORE THAN HOT DISH AND ICE FISHING

Minnesota has a rich and diverse cultural landscape. Our historical residents have each left their mark on our state – from the Dakota and Ojibwe who first settled here, to the European immigrants of the 19th century, and more recently to the Hmong and Somali who have moved here. “Minnesota Nice” isn’t a cliché — our state has always been a leader in welcoming new residents in search of a new beginning.

Today, Minnesota’s culture is being shaped by the tastes of young residents. In the Twin Cities, we’re in the middle of a “culinary renaissance,” with 91 new restaurants opening in 2014, making the region a destination for foodies everywhere. Craft breweries, like Surly Brewing Company, August Schell Brewing Company and Summit

Brewing Company, have become a popular destination for locals. We have 73 breweries operating across the state, ranking 16th nationwide.

While the temperatures may drop in the winter, our spirit of celebration certainly does not. Case in point: Saint Paul’s annual Winter Carnival, dubbed “The Coolest Celebration on Earth,” was created in 1886 in response to criticism from a New York reporter about Minnesota’s chilly winters. And how could we go without mentioning the “Great Minnesota Get-Together,” the Minnesota State Fair, which attracts nearly 1.8 million visitors every year. Whether it’s warm or cold, we know how to have a good time and savor in the most delectable food and drink.



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LIFE IN MINNESOTA

BETWEEN THE CITIES AND THE LAKES

From the bustle of our cities to the leisure of “lake life,” our state offers a great setting for both urban or rural lifestyles, and everything in between.

Across the state, our premier education and health care systems have led to a population of residents that are among the most educated and healthiest in the country. Every year for the past 25 years, Minnesota has ranked as one of the six healthiest states in the country, ranking first seven times.

Minneapolis and Saint Paul’s downtowns support a mix of corporate, residential, retail and entertainment spaces that give each city a unique and vivacious spirit. Outside of the each city’s center, residential neighborhoods provide a variety of living options.

Tying together this urban environment is a flourishing public transit system of buses and light rail. For those who prefer to use their own two wheels, there are over 210 miles of on- and off-street bike paths running through Minneapolis alone, which would explain its position in the “Top 5 Most Bike-friendly Cities,” according to Bicycling magazine, since 2008.

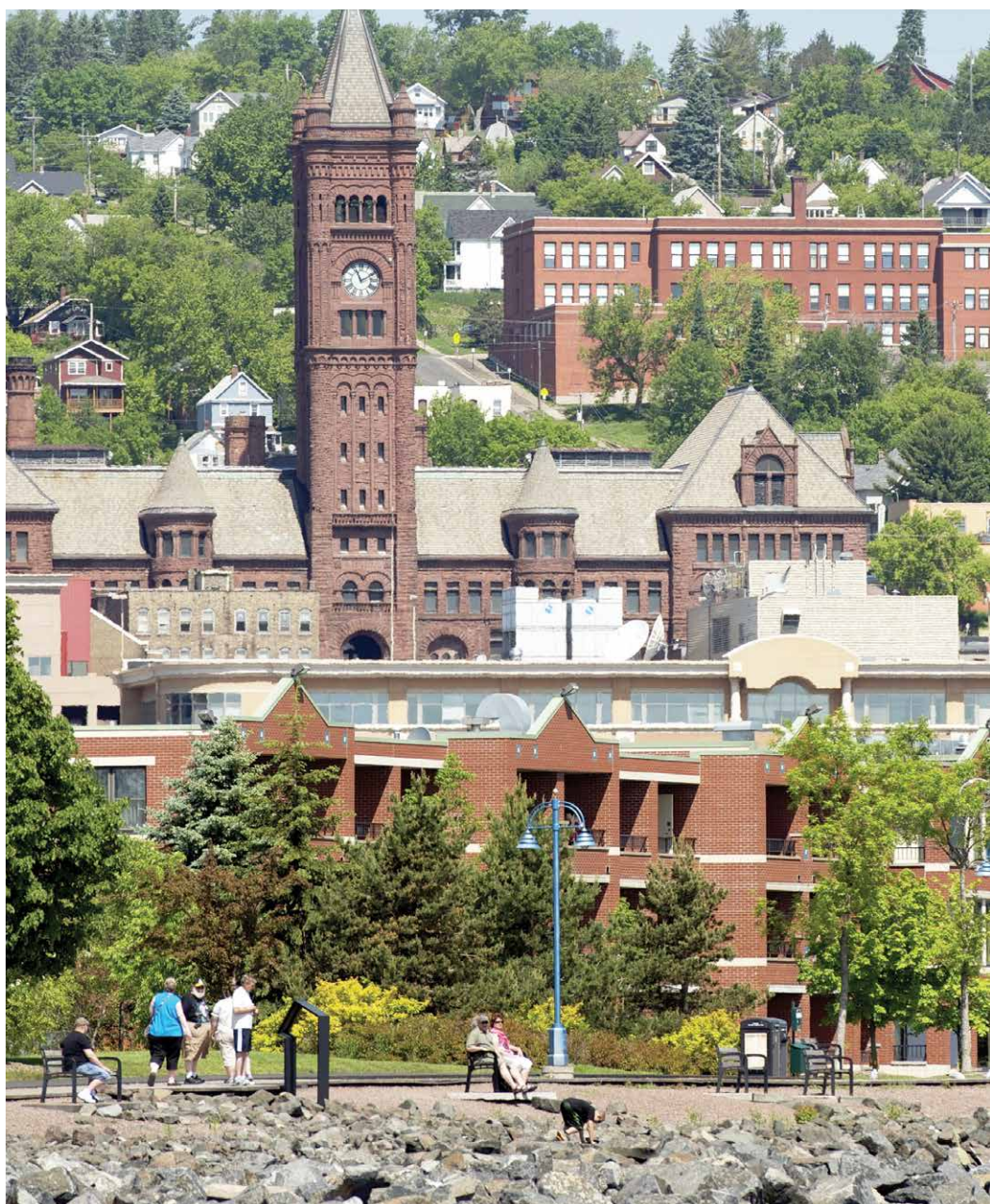
For those looking to live outside of the Twin Cities, Minnesota is full of small and medium-sized cities with emerging economic opportunities. Duluth, Rochester, Saint Cloud and Moorhead are great examples of smaller metropolitan centers, each with a diverse economy and many of the cultural amenities that are found in the Twin Cities.

**MONEY MAGAZINE RECENTLY NAMED TWIN
CITIES SUBURBS MAPLE GROVE, EAGAN AND
WOODBURY AS THE 2ND, 11TH AND 12TH BEST
PLACES TO LIVE IN THE NATION. (2014)**



More reasons to brag about living in Minnesota:

- » Vox.com declared Minneapolis as the most economically friendly city for millennials in the country, citing the city's balance between housing affordability and median household income.
- » The Minneapolis skyway system connects 73 city blocks, making it the longest series of indoor pedestrian pathways in the world.
- » Oh là là! USA TODAY named St. Paul as the most romantic North American city in 2014.
- » Grand Marais — the traditional last stop on Minnesotans' traditional North Shore drives — won the title in Budget Travel magazine's 10th annual "Coolest Small Towns in America" contest in 2015.
- » Outside Magazine designated the city of Duluth as the best outdoors town in 2014. Duluth was selected out of 64 communities over six rounds of online voting.





BUSINESS IN MINNESOTA

WORK HARD, INNOVATE HARDER

Minnesota's booming economy has created a windfall of diverse, well-paying jobs with nearly every major industry represented. It attracts people to come here to find work or to get an education that will prepare them for the many opportunities Minnesota offers. Minnesota is home to 17 Fortune 500 companies with recognizable names such as 3M, Target and General Mills — all known for their innovative contributions to society and progressive corporate cultures. There are also thousands of small to medium-sized employers across the state that are the lifeblood of Minnesota's economy, doing equally innovative work in health care, technology and professional services including law, advertising and much more.

For these reasons, Minnesota's business environment and workforce have received resounding national recognition...

- » In 2014, Forbes named Minnesota the 9th best state in which to do business.
- » Minnesota is the nation's 4th "hardest-working" state, with 69.8% of its residents participating in the labor force.
- » Business Insider named Minneapolis as the 2nd best city for recent college grads in the country.
- » Minnesota is the 10th most innovative state in the nation, according to 2014 rankings by Bloomberg.
- » Business Insider put the Twin Cities first in "U.S. Cities With The Hardest Working People" in 2014.
- » Mankato was ranked as the third-best small place for business and careers by Forbes in 2014. The city has a population of nearly 99,000, low unemployment (3.8 percent) and cost of living 11 percent below the national average.



MINNEAPOLIS – 2ND BEST CITY FOR RECENT COLLEGE GRADS IN THE COUNTRY

Minnesota's Fortune 500 Companies – 2015

CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

- » Ecolab
- » The Mosaic Company

DIVERSIFIED PRODUCTS

- » 3M

FINANCE & INSURANCE

- » UnitedHealth Group
- » Ameriprise
- » Thrivent Financial
- » U.S. Bancorp

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- » CHS
- » SUPERVALU

FOOD PRODUCTS

- » General Mills
- » Land O'Lakes, Inc.
- » Hormel Foods

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

- » St. Jude Medical

RETAIL

- » Target
- » Best Buy

TRANSPORTATION

- » C.H. Robinson Worldwide

UTILITIES

- » Xcel Energy





ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS IN MINNESOTA

ONLY THE BORING GET BORED

There's an old saying that goes "only the boring get bored," and it is safe to say that Minnesota's people and places leave little room for boredom. Whether you live for the roar of an open-air stadium, the calm corridors of an art institute or the hum of a county fair, there are endless ways to fill your free time in our state.

Performance and Visual Arts

- » Minneapolis was recently called a "sleeping giant" of the national theater scene by USA TODAY. We have renowned venues such as Guthrie Theater and the Minneapolis Children's Theater, as well as many smaller award-winning theater companies. The Twin Cities is also home to distinguished visual arts museums, including the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.
- » USA TODAY named Northeast Minneapolis the nation's top arts district in 2014, citing the studios, galleries and performance spaces that rose from the repurposed industrial buildings of the neighborhood.
- » Outside of the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota is also filled with buzzing music and arts scenes. People travel from around the nation to attend the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona each summer, while St. Cloud, Duluth, Rochester and Moorhead all support their own independent city orchestras.
- » Lanesboro, Minnesota was recently named the 10th best small town for art in the U.S. by Smithsonian Magazine.
- » If you're looking for an act that's a bit louder, Minneapolis was named one of America's greatest music cities by Thrillist.com, and our famed nightclub First Avenue was named the 3rd best "Big Room" in the country by Rolling Stone.
- » Prince. The Purple One has "secret concerts" at Paisley Park Studios every so often. Need we say more?
- » In 2014, Travel+Leisure ranked Minneapolis second in free attractions, third in art scene and fourth in concerts.



MINNEAPOLIS HAS MORE GOLFERS PER CAPITA THAN ANY OTHER CITY.

Sports

From the peewee leagues to the majors, sports are a year-round staple in Minnesota. We might be known as the “State of Hockey,” but Minnesota is actually one of only 12 states that have teams in all five of the national major sports leagues.

- » Wild (National Hockey League)
- » Timberwolves (National Basketball Association)
- » Lynx (Women’s National Basketball Association)
- » Vikings (National Football League)
- » Twins (Major League Baseball)

College sports are also popular in Minnesota, with the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers representing the state in the Big Ten Conference and competitive collegiate teams located across our state.



OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MINNESOTA

THE LAND OF SKY-TINTED WATERS

- » No matter the temperature, one thing holds true: the people of our state will be “out ‘n about” and actively enjoying the beautiful place we call home.
- » According to the Public Trust for Land, Minneapolis has the best park system in the entire country.
- » Minnesota has 90,000 miles of shoreline, more than California, Florida and Hawaii combined.



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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"When I moved back to Minnesota, I realized what I was missing the whole time. It's all the opportunities that exist here, which stem from the schools, parks, health care, jobs and everything else. Most importantly — it's the people who make me feel like I really belong."

